

S/N: 10/661,018

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**CENTRAL FAX CENTER** Atty Dkt No. GP-303369/GM0383PUS**JAN 27 2006****Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A pickup truck comprising:

a cab;

a sidewall at least partially defining a pickup truck cargo box, the sidewall having a forward portion and a rearward portion, said forward portion being characterized by a first height and said rearward portion being characterized by a second height; wherein no part of the sidewall rearward of the forward portion and forward of the rearward portion extends higher than a third height that is less than the first and second heights to form with an elongated opening formed in the sidewall between the cab and the rearward portion; and

at least one fastening element mounted with respect to the sidewall for mounting any one of a plurality of differently-configured sidewall modules at least partially within the elongated opening to provide or alter functionality of the sidewall; ~~wherein said opening is upwardly open.~~

2. (original) The pickup truck of claim 1, wherein said at least one fastening element faces the elongated opening.

3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The pickup truck of claim 1, wherein said at least one fastening element is configured for releasable engagement with a complementary fastening element on said any one of a plurality of differently-configured sidewall modules to enable module interchangeability.

5. (previously presented) The pickup truck of claim 1, wherein the elongated opening extends from the forward portion to the rearward portion of the sidewall.

6-15. (cancelled)

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16. (currently amended) A method of adding or altering pickup truck sidewall functionality, the method comprising:

possessing a pickup truck, the pickup truck including a cab and a first sidewall, the first sidewall having a first forward portion and a first rearward portion, said first forward portion being characterized by a first height and said first rearward portion being characterized by a second height; wherein no part of the first sidewall rearward of the first forward portion and forward of the first rearward portion extends higher than a third height that is less than the first and second heights to form with a first elongated opening ~~formed~~ in the first sidewall between the cab and the first rearward portion, ~~said first elongated opening being upwardly open, and a first fastening element mounted with respect to the first sidewall for mounting any one of a first plurality of differently configured sidewall modules at least partially within the first elongated opening to provide or alter functionality of the first sidewall; and~~

attaching a first sidewall module to the pickup truck such that the first sidewall module is at least partially within the first elongated opening.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the pickup truck has a second sidewall having a second forward portion and a second rearward portion, said second forward portion being characterized by a fourth height and said second rearward portion being characterized by a fifth height; wherein no part of the second sidewall rearward of the second forward portion and forward of the second rearward portion extends higher than a sixth height that is less than the fourth and fifth heights to form with a second elongated opening ~~formed~~ in the second sidewall between the cab and the second rearward portion, ~~said second elongated opening being upwardly open, and a second fastening element mounted with respect to the second sidewall for mounting any one of a second plurality of differently configured sidewall modules at least partially within the second elongated opening to provide or alter functionality of the second sidewall; and~~

wherein the method further comprises attaching a second sidewall module to the pickup truck such that the second sidewall module is at least partially within the second elongated opening; and

wherein the second sidewall module is differently-structured and has a different functionality from the first sidewall module.

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18. (previously presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising removing a second sidewall module from the first elongated opening prior to said attaching the first sidewall module, the second sidewall module being differently-structured and having a different functionality from the first sidewall module.

19. (currently amended) A pickup truck comprising:

a sidewall at least partially defining a pickup truck cargo box and having a forward portion and a rearward portion, said forward portion being characterized by a first height and said rearward portion being characterized by a second height; wherein no part of the sidewall rearward of the forward portion and forward of the rearward portion extends higher than a third height that is less than the first and second heights to form ~~with~~ an elongated opening ~~formed~~ in the sidewall between the forward and rearward portions, the opening being uncovered and upwardly open; and

at least one fastening element facing the elongated opening and at which any one of a plurality of differently-configured sidewall modules is releasably mountable to provide or alter functionality of the sidewall.